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spider 'spi-dər \n [ME *spyder*, alter. of *spithre*; akin to OE *spinnan* to spin] (15c) 1: any of an order (Araneae syn. Araneida) of arachnids having the abdomen usu. unsegmented and constricted at the base, chelicerae modified into poison fangs, and two or more pairs of abdominal spinnerets for spinning threads of silk used in making cocoons for their eggs, nests for themselves, or webs to catch prey 2: a cast-iron frying pan orig. made with short feet to stand among coals on the hearth 3: any of various devices consisting of a frame or skeleton with radiating arms or members — **spider-ish** \-də-rish/ *adj* — **spider-like** \-də-r,lik/ *adj*

spider crab *n* (ca. 1710): any of a family (Majidae) of crabs with extremely long legs and nearly triangular bodies which they often cover with mite

spider mite *n* (1870): any of several small web-spinning mites (family Tetranychidae) that attack forage and crop plants — called also *red spider*

spider monkey *n* (1764): any of a genus (*Ateles*) of New World monkeys with long slender limbs, the thumb absent or rudimentary, and a very long prehensile tail

spider plant *n* (1944): a widely grown houseplant (*Chlorophytum comosum* var. *variegatum*) of the lily family having long narrow green leaves usu. striped with white or ivory and producing white flowers and tufts of plantlets on long hanging stems

spider-web 'spi-dər-,web/ *n* (ca. 1649) 1: the network of silken thread spun by most spiders and used as a resting place and as a trap for small prey 2: something that resembles or suggests a spiderweb

spider-wort \-wɔrt-,wɔrt/ *n* (1629): any of a genus (*Tradescantia* of the family Commelinaceae, the spiderwort family) of American monocotyledonous plants with ephemeral often blue or violet flowers

spidery 'spi-dər-ri/ *adj* (1837) 1 *a*: resembling a spider in form or manner *b*: resembling a spiderweb; *esp*: composed of fine threads or lines in a weblike arrangement (~ lace) 2: infested with spiders

spie-gel-el-sen 'spi-gə-,li-zən/ also **spie-gel** 'spi-gəl/ *n* [G *Spiegeleisen*, fr. *Spiegel* mirror + *Eisen* iron] (1868): a composition of iron that contains 15 to 30 percent manganese and 0.5 to 6.5 percent carbon

spiel 'spi:(ə)l/ *vb* [G *spielen* to play, fr. OHG *spīlan*; akin to OE *spilian* to revel] *vi* (1870) 1: to play music 2: to talk volubly or extravagantly ~ *vt*: to utter, express, or describe volubly or extravagantly — **spie-ler** 'spi-lər/ *n*

spiel *n* (1896): a voluble line of often extravagant talk: PITCH

spier 'spi-(ə)r/ *n* (13c): SPY

spier 'spi:r/ *chiefly Scot* var of *SPUR*

spiff 'spi:f/ *vb* [E dial. *spiff* *dandified*] (1877): SPRUCE — usu. used with up (~ up your wardrobe) — **spiffed-up** 'spi:f-,sp/ *adj*

spiffy 'spi:f-ē/ *adj* **spiff-i-er**, -est (1853): fine looking: SMART (a ~ sports jacket) — **spiff-i-ly** \-fə-,lē/ *adv* — **spiff-i-ness** \-fē-nəs/ *n*

spigot 'spi-gət-,kət/ *n* [ME] (14c) 1 *a*: SPILE 2 *b*: the plug of a faucet or cock *c*: FAUCET 2: something resembling a spigot *esp* in regulating availability or flow (as of money)

spike 'spi:k/ *n* [ME, prob. fr. MD; akin to MHG *speicher* spike] (13c) 1: a very large nail 2 *a*: one of a row of pointed iron pieces placed (as on the top of a wall) to prevent passage *b* (1): one of several metal projections set in the sole and heel of a shoe to improve traction (2) *pl*: a pair of shoes having spikes attached to the soles or soles and heels *c*: SPINDLE 1c 3: something resembling a spike: as *a*: a young mackerel not over six inches (15.2 centimeters) long *b*: an unbranched antler of a young deer *4 pl*: spikes with spike heels 5: the act or an instance of spiking (as in volleyball) 6 *a*: a pointed element in a graph or tracing *b*: an unusually high and sharply defined maximum (as of amplitude in a wave train) 7 *slang*: HYPODERMIC NEEDLE 8: a momentary sharp increase and fall in the record of an electric potential; *also*: ACTION POTENTIAL 9: an abrupt sharp increase in prices or rates — **spike-like** \-lik/ *adj*

spike *vi* **spiked**; **spiking** (1624) 1: to fasten or furnish with spikes 2 *a*: to disable (a muzzle-loading cannon) temporarily by driving a spike into the vent *b*: to suppress or block completely (*spiked* the rumor) 3 *a*: to pierce or impale with or on a spike *b*: to reject (as a story) for publication or broadcast for editorial reasons 4 *a*: to add an alcoholic beverage to (a drink) *b*: to add something highly reactive (as a radioactive tracer) to *c*: to add vitality, zest, or spice to: LIVE (*spiked* the speech with humor) *d*: to add vitality, zest, or spice to: to drive (as a volleyball) sharply downward with a hard blow; *also*: to throw down sharply (*spiked* the ball in the end zone) 6: to undergo a sudden sharp increase in (temperature, or fever) (the patient *spiked* a fever of 103°) — **spike-er** *n*

spike *n* [ME *spik*, fr. L *spica* — more at SPINE] (14c) 1: an ear of grain 2: an elongated inflorescence similar to a raceme but having the flowers sessile on the main axis — see INFLORESCENCE illustration

spiked 'spi:kt-,spi:kəd/ *adj* (1601) 1: HAVING AN INFLORESCENCE illustration is a spike 2: having a sharp projecting point

spike heel *n* (1926): a very high tapping heel used on women's shoes

spike lavender 'spi:k-,lən/ *n* [alter. of E dial. *spik* lavender] (1607): a European mint (*Lavandula latifolia*) related to true lavender

spike-let 'spi:k-let/ *n* (1851): a small or secondary spike; *specif*: one of the small few-flowered bracted spikes that make up the compound inflorescence of a grass or sedge

spike-nard 'spi:k-,nərd/ *n* [ME, fr. MF or ML; MF *spicanarde*, fr. ML *spica nardi*, lit. spike of nard] (14c) 1 *a*: a fragrant ointment of the ancients *b*: a Himalayan aromatic plant (*Nardostachys jatamansi*) of the valerian family from which spikenard is believed to have been derived 2: an American herb (*Aralia racemosa*) of the ginseng family with aromatic root and panicked umbels

spike-tooth harrow 'spi:k-'tuth-/ *n* (1926): a harrow with straight steel teeth set in horizontal bars

spiky *also* **spikey** 'spi:k-ē/ *adj* **spiki-er**, -est (1720) 1: of, relating to, or characterized by spikes 2: sharply irritating or acerbic (as in temper or manner) 3 [fr. the alleged harshness of such views]: *Brit*: strongly favoring Anglo-Catholic teaching or practice — **spik-i-ly** \-kə-,lē/ *adv* — **spik-i-ness** \-kē-nəs/ *n*

spile 'spi:(ə)l/ *n* [prob. fr. D *spijl* stake] (1513) 1: 'PILE 1 2: a small plug used to stop the vent of a cask: BUNG 3: a spout inserted in a tree to draw off sap

spile *vi* **spiled**; **spiling** (1691) 1: to plug with a spile 2: to supply with a spile

'spill *'spil* *vo spilled* *'spild*, *'spilt* also *spilt* *'spilt*; **spilling** [*sp* fr. OE *spillan*: akin to OE *spildan* to destroy and perh. to L *spoliū* animal skin, Gk *spallein* to cause to fall] *vi* (bef. 12c) 1 a *archaic*: KILL, DESTROY *b*: to cause (blood) to flow 2: to cause or allow esp. accidentally or unintentionally to fall, flow, or run out so as to be lost or wasted 3 *a*: to relieve (a sail) from the pressure of the wind so as: to reef or furl it *b*: to relieve the pressure of (wind) on a sail by coming about or by adjusting the sail with lines 4: to throw off or out (a horse ~ed him) 5: to let out: DIVULGE (~ a secret) ~ *vi* 1 *a*: to flow, run, or fall out, over, or off and become wasted, scattered, or lost *b*: to cause or allow something to spill 2: to spread profusely or beyond bounds (crowds ~ed into the streets) 3: to fall from one's place (as on a horse) ~ **spill-able** *'spil-ə-bəl* *adj* ~ **spill-er** *n* ~ **spill the beans**: to divulge secret or hidden information **'spill** *n* (ca. 1845) 1: the act or an instance of spilling; *esp*: a fall from a horse or vehicle or an erect position 2: something spilled **'spill** *n* [*ME* *spille*] (14c) 1: a wooden splinter 2: a slender piece: as *a*: a metallic rod or pin *b* (1): a small roll or twist of paper or slip of wood for lighting a fire (2): a roll or cone of paper serving as a container *c*: a peg or pin for plugging a hole: **SPILE** **spill-age** *'spil-ij* *n* (1924) 1: the act or process of spilling 2: the quantity that spills: material lost or scattered by spilling **'spill-ik-kin** *'spil-ik-kən* *n* [prob. alter. of obs. D *spilleken* small peg] (1734) 1: JACKSTRAW 2 *pl*: JACKSTRAW **spill-over** *'spil-ə-vər* *n*, often *attrib* (1920) 1: the act or an instance of spilling over 2: a quantity that spills over 3: an extension of something *esp*. when due to an excess **spill-way** *ˌ-spɪl-wei* *n* (1889): a passage for surplus water to run over or around an obstruction (as a dam) **spilth** *'spilth* *n* (1607) 1: the act or an instance of spilling 2 *a*: something spilled *b*: REFUSE, RUBBISH **'spin** *'spɪn* *vb* *spun* *'spʌn*; **spinning** [*ME* *spinnen*, fr. OE *spinnan*: akin to OHG *spinnan* to spin and perh. to Lith *spęsti* to set (a trap)] *vi* (bef. 12c) 1: to draw out and twist fiber into yarn or thread 2: to form a thread by extruding a viscous rapidly hardening fluid ~ used *esp.* of a spider or insect 3 *a*: to revolve rapidly: GYRATE *b*: to feel as if in a whirl: REEL (my head is *spinning*) 4: to move swiftly *esp.* on or as if on wheels or in a vehicle 5: to fish with spinning bait: TROLL 6 *a* of an airplane: to fall in a spin *b*: to plunge helplessly and out of control ~ *vi* 1 *a*: to draw out and twist into yarns or threads *b*: to produce by drawing out and twisting a fibrous material 2: to form (as a web or cocoon) by spinning 3 *a*: to stretch out or extend (as a story) lengthily: PROTRACT ~ *usu.* used with *out* *b*: to evolve, express, or fabricate by processes of mind or imagination (~ a yarn) 4: to cause to whirl: impart spin to (~ a top) 5: to shape into threadlike form in manufacture; also: to manufacture by a whirling process **'spin** *n* (1831) 1 *a*: the act of spinning or twirling something; also: an instance of spinning or of spinning something (doing axels and ~s) (an assortment of ~s and lobs) *b*: the whirling motion imparted (as to a ball or top) by spinning *c*: an excursion or ride in a vehicle *esp.* on wheels (go for a ~) 2 *a*: an aerial maneuver or flight condition consisting of a combination of roll and yaw with the longitudinal axis of the airplane inclined steeply downward *b*: a plunging descent or downward spiral *c*: a state of mental confusion (in a ~) 3 *a*: a quantum characteristic of an elementary particle that is visualized as the rotation of the particle on its axis and that is responsible for measurable angular momentum and magnetic moment *b*: the angular momentum associated with such rotation whose magnitude is quantized and which may assume either of two possible directions; also: the angular momentum of a system of such particles derived from the spins and orbital motions of the particles 4: a special point of view, emphasis, or interpretation (put the most favorable ~ on the findings) ~ **spin-less** *'spɪn-ləs* *adj* **spi-na** *bi-fi-də* *'spɪ-nə-ˈbi-fi-də* *n* [NL, lit., spine split in two] (1720) 1: a congenital cleft of the vertebral column with hernial protrusion of the meninges and sometimes the spinal cord **spin-ach** *'spɪ-nɪʃ* *n* [*ME* *spynache*, fr. MF *espinache*, *espinaque*, fr. OSP *espinaca*, fr. Ar *isfānākh*, fr. Per] (15c) 1: an Asian herb (*Spinacia oleracea*) of the goosefoot family cultivated for its edible leaves which form in a dense basal rosette 2 *a*: something unwanted, pretentious, or spurious *b*: an untidy overgrowth ~ **spin-ach-like** *ˌspɪ-nɪʃ-ˈli* *adj* **'spin-al** *'spɪ-nəl* *adj* (1578) 1: *cf.* relating to, or situated near the backbone 2 *a*: of, relating to, or affecting the spinal cord (~ reflexes) *b*: having the spinal cord functionally isolated (as by surgical section) from the brain (experiments on ~ animals) 3: of, relating to, or resembling a spine **'spinal** *n* (1944): a spinal anesthetic **spinal canal** *n* (1845): VERTEBRAL CANAL **spinal column** *n* (1836): the axial skeleton of the trunk and tail of a vertebrate consisting of an articulated series of vertebrae and protecting the spinal cord ~ called also *backbone* **spinal cord** *n* (1836): the cord of nervous tissue that extends from the brain lengthwise along the back in the vertebral canal, gives off the pairs of spinal nerves, carries impulses to and from the brain, and serves as a center for initiating and coordinating many reflex acts ~ see BRAIN illustration **spinal ganglion** *n* (ca. 1860): a ganglion on the dorsal root of each spinal nerve that is one of a series of ganglia lodging cell bodies of sensory neurons **'spin-al-ly** *'spɪ-nəl-ē* *adv* (1885): with respect to or along the spine **spinal nerve** *n* (ca. 1793): any of the paired nerves which leave the spinal cord of a craniate vertebrate, supply muscles of the trunk and limbs, and connect with the nerves of the sympathetic nervous system, which arise by a short motor ventral root and a short sensory dorsal root, and of which there are 31 pairs in humans classified according to the part of the spinal cord from which they arise into 8 cervical pairs, 12 thoracic pairs, 5 lumbar pairs, 5 sacral pairs, and one coccygeal pair **spin-dle** *'spɪ-n-dl* *n* [*ME* *spindel*, fr. OE *spinel*: akin to OE *spinnan* to spin] (12c) 1 *a*: a round stick with tapered ends used to form and twist the yarn in hand spinning *b*: the long slender pin by which the thread is twisted in a spinning wheel *c*: any of various rods or pins holding a bobbin in a textile machine (as a spinning frame) *d*: the pin

in a loom shuttle *v* base on which paper
2 something shape of chiefly microtubule distributed during mitosis bar or shaft used for the latch or bolt of a in a baluster (2) 1 than a shaft (2)
pivot ends *n* < the p
spindle *v*b spindle
1 to shoot or grow stem rather than to florates on the spike o furniture) with spind
spindle cell *n* (1878)
spindle-legged
having long slender
spindle-shanked
spindle tree *n* (154 trees, or vines (genus
spinning-*d* /'spin-/d/ spinning-dly /'spin-/dl/ disproportionately t physical weakness <ture
spin doctor *n* (198 ensuring that others
spin-drift /'spin-/drift/ a strong wind + E waves during a game
spine /'spin/ *n* [ME. *spica* ear of grain] (1 bling a spinal column : the part of a book of which usu. appea : a stiff pointed part 3 a sharp ring unsegmented fin ray
spined /'spind-/ad
spine-chilling /-,adj
spin-el or **spin-nelle** (1528) 1 a hard c sium and aluminum is used as a gem 2 oxides of magnesium
spine-less /'spin-/les 2 a : having strength of character
spin-net /'spi-/net also fr. L; fr. the manner chord having a single : a compactly built
spin fishing *n* /'spini-/ fishing /'spini-/le at Poj (1846) : any *Troglodytes* with spiny s
spin-na-ker /'spini-/ (1866) : a large tria light pole and used wind
spin-ner /'spini-/n/ 2 a fisherman's w blade, or set of w drawn through the metal fairing that is propeller boss and movable arrow that cate the number or may make in a board
spin-met /'spini-/n/ doing less of a spin during threads of s silk strands 2 or metal plate, thimbles through which a cellulose) is forced in ti nylon)
spin-ne-y /'spini-/n pine thorn, fr. L spin growth
spinning /'spini-/n cast by use of a light
spinning frame *n* (yarn
spinning-jen-ny / early multiple-spindle
spinning reel *n* (19 which the line is w disengaged to allow l
spinning rod *n* (187 reel
spinning wheel *n* (machine for spinning
spin-off /'spini-/off/ stockholders of parti also : the new compo or derived product products (the ~ from tive or derivative of character popular in
spin off *v* (1950) : t spun off its compute establish or become

spruce • squamosal

spur gear

1: to tread sharply or heavily upon: TRAMPLE 2: to reject, disdain or contempt: SCORN *syn* see DECLINE — **spurn**-er *n*
spurn *n* (14c) 1 a: KICK b obs: STUMBLE 2 a: disdain b: contemptuous treatment
spur-of-the-moment *adj* (1948) : occurring or developing
predetermination: hastily extemporized (a ~ decision)
spurred 'spɔrd/ *adj* (15c) 1: wearing spurs 2: having one
spurs (a ~ violet)
spur-rey or **spury** 'spɔr-ē, 'spɔ-rē *n*, *pl* **spurreys** or **spurr-
ies** *fr.* *ML* *spurgula* (1577) : a small white-flowered
weed (*Spergula arvensis*) of the pink family with whorled
leaves; also: any of several related and similar herbs
spurt 'spɜrt/ *vb* [perh. akin to MHG *spürzen* to spit, OE *sp
sprout* — more at *SPROUT*] *vi* (1570) : to gush forth: *SPROUT*
expel in a stream or jet: *QUIRT*
spurt *n* (ca. 1775) : a sudden gush: *JET*
spurt *n* [origin unknown] (ca. 1591) 1: a short period of
MENT 2 a: a sudden brief burst of effort or activity b: a
sudden increase in business activity
spurt *vi* (1664) : to make a spurt
spurt-le 'spɜrt-lē *n* [origin unknown] (1756) *chiefly Scot* : a
stick for stirring porridge
sput-nik 'spʊt-nīk, 'spɒt-, 'spʊt-*n* *n* [Russ. lit., traveling comp
s, so with + *put* path] (1957) : SATELLITE 2b
sput-ter 'spʊt-tər/ *vb* [akin to *D* *sputter* to sputter] *vi* (15c)
spit or squirt from the mouth with explosive sounds ~ to
ity or explosively in confusion or excitement 3: to dislo
from the surface of a material by collision with high energy
also: to deposit (a metallic film) by such a process ~ to
squirt particles of food or saliva noisily from the mouth 2:
explosively or confusedly in anger or excitement 3: to make
popping sounds — **sput-ter**-er *n*
sputter *n* (1673) 1: confused and excited speech or dis
: the act or sound of sputtering
sputum 'spju-təm, 'spʊ-*n*, *pl* **sputa** 'tʃ-*n* [L. *fr.* neut. *n*
of *spuere* to spit — more at *SPREW*] (ca. 1693) : expector
made up of saliva and often discharges from the respiratory
~ *fr.* *OHG* *spēhon* to spy; akin to *L* *specere* to look, look at
testhai & *skopein* to watch, look at, consider] *vi* (13c) 1:
secretly use, for hostile purposes 2: to catch sight of: a
search or look for intensively ~ *vi* 1: to observe or search
thing: LOOK 2: to watch secretly as a spy
spy *n*, *pl* **spies** (13c) 1: one that spies: a: one who ha
watch on a person or thing to obtain information b: a
employed by one nation to secretly convey classified informati
gic importance to another nation; also: an agent of spying
trade secrets of one company to another 2: an act of spying
spy-glass 'spi-, glas/ *n* (1706) : a small telescope
spy-mas-ter 'spi-mas-tər/ *n* (1938) : the head of a ring of
director of intelligence
squab 'skwɒb/ *n*, *pl* **squabs** [Prob. of Scand origin; akin to
skvabb anything soft and thick] (1664) 1 a: COUCH b: a
for a chair or couch 2 or *pl* **squab** : a fledgling bird; spe
ling pigeon about four weeks old 3: a short fat person —
squab-ble 'skwɒ-bəl/ *n* [Prob. of Scand origin; akin to Sw
bel dispute] (1602) : a noisy altercation or quarrel usu. over
squabble *vi* **squab-ble**; **squab-bling** 'b-*g*-, 'blɪŋ/ (1604)
noisily and usu. over trifles **squab-ber** 'b-*g*-, 'blər/ *n*
squad 'skwɒd/ *n* [MF *esquade*, *fr.* OSP & OF: OSP *esquade*
squadra, ultim. *fr.* (assumed) VL *exquadrare* to make square
SQUARE] (1649) 1: a small organized group of military per
: a tactical unit that can be easily directed in the field 2:
group engaged in a common effort or occupation
squad *vi* **squad-ded**; **squad-ding** (ca. 1802) : to arrange in
squad car *n* (1938) : a police automobile connected by a
dio with headquarters — called also *cruiser*, *prowl car*
squad-ron 'skwɒ-drən/ *n* [It *squadron*, aug. of *squadra* squ
 (1562) : a unit of military organization: a: a cavalry unit
a troop and lower than a regiment b: a naval unit consist
or more divisions and sometimes additional vessels c (U
the U.S. Air Force higher than a flight and lower than a
military flight formation
squadron leader (1919) : a commissioned officer in the
force who ranks with a major in the army
squad room *n* (1943) 1: a room in a barracks used to ba
2: a room in a police station where members of the force are
squalene 'skwɒ-lən/ *n* [ISV, *fr.* L *squalus*, a sea fish
WHALE] (1916) : an acyclic hydrocarbon C₃₀H₅₂ that is wa
uted in nature (as a major component of squal and in shal
and is a precursor of sterols (as cholesterol)
squal-id 'skwɒ-lɪd/ *adj* [L *squalidus* rough, dirty, *fr.* *sp*
covered with scales or dirt, *fr.* *squalus* dirty; perh. akin to *sp*
(1596) 1: marked by filthiness and degradation from nob
erty 2: SORDID *syn* see DIRTY — **squal-id-ly** *adv* —
n
squal 'skwɒl/ *vb* [Prob. of Scand origin; akin to ON *skv*
chatter] *vi* (ca. 1631) : to cry out raucously: SCREAM ~
in a strident voice — **squal**-er *n*
squal *n* (1709) : a raucous cry
squall *n* [Prob. of Scand origin; akin to Sw *skval* rushing
1: a sudden violent wind often with rain or snow 2: a
commotion
squall *vi* (ca. 1890) : to blow a squall
squally 'skwɒ-lē/ *adj* **squall-i-er**; -est (1719) 1: marked
2: GUSTY
squa-lor 'skwɒ-lər/ *also* 'skwɒ- or 'skwɒ-*n* *n* [L. *fr.* *squalor*
quality or state of being squalid
squa-ma 'skwɒ-mə, 'skwɒ-*n*, *pl* **squa-mae** 'skwɒ-mə
[L] (ca. 1706) : SCALE; also: a structure resembling a scale
squa-mate 'māt/ *adj* (1826) : SCALY (~ reptiles)
squa-mation 'skwɒ-mə-shən/ *n* (1881) 1: the state of a
2: the arrangement of scales on an animal
squa-mo-sal 'skwɒ-mō-səl, -zəl/ *n* (1848) : a squamoid